

COUNTY OF YORK

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 5, 2002 (BOS Mtg. 2/19/02)

TO: York County Board of Supervisors

FROM: James O. McReynolds, County Administrator

SUBJECT: Brown's Park Stream Restoration and Wetlands Interpretive and Educational Center – Grant Acceptance

As you know, the County has acquired 3.08 acres (R01-198 on 11/20/01) adjacent to Charles Brown Park and is developing a Wetlands Interpretive and Education Center. This project provides substantial benefits in that it:

- preserves and restores a small portion of a rapidly disappearing natural resource that helped to define our heritage
- provides a Learning Center for middle and high school classes, with both access to the Community Services Center at the Park for lectures and a field site
- adds an educational and recreational amenity for the community
- can be included as a self-guided walking tour in a package for tourism promotions
- allows the investment of public funds to remain in the County
- provides drainage improvements in the surrounding area
- improves water quality of stormwater runoff
- satisfies a mitigation obligation that the County incurred in constructing the Tabb Library, and the Army Corps of Engineers will again issue permits
- Fulfills the goals of the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement

Grant Acceptance and Appropriation

This project is a collaborative undertaking amongst the Departments of Community Services, Environmental and Developmental Services (EDS), and Financial and Management Services. To help with the costs of this project, the Department of Environmental and Development Services successfully applied for grant funding in the amount of \$50,000 through the Chesapeake Bay Small Watersheds Program. This grant requires a dollar for dollar local match. Funds to meet this local match requirement are currently available in the following amounts:

- ◆ \$25,000 for property acquisition per Resolution R01-198

◆ \$110,000 in Fund #26 for Lackey Drainage Improvements

It is necessary for the Board to accept the grant funds in the amount of \$50,000 and appropriate \$50,000 in local matching funds.

In addition to the Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants Program award of \$50,000 toward this project, a number of resources have been assembled to help defray the County's costs. Bridges have been donated, the Boy Scouts have committed to work on the footpaths, and the Master Gardeners and Tree Stewards will participate in the wetlands plantings. Staff estimates the cost of the project to be in the vicinity of \$230,000.

Recommendation

As a project the Brown's Park Stream Restoration and Wetlands Interpretive and Educational Center accomplishes a number of needed activities and brings a variety of benefits to the County. Local funds sufficient to satisfy the matching requirement of \$50,000 are available and have in fact already been appropriated. I recommend that the Board adopt proposed Resolution R02-37 to authorize the acceptance and appropriation of these funds.

Smith/4110

Attachment

- Proposed Resolution R02-37